



In the News

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ECIDA Board approves Solar Policy, incentivizing renewable energy development

Projects will be evaluated on specific criteria to encourage investment in solar energy

Buffalo, NY— The Erie County Industrial Development Agency (ECIDA) Board of Directors approved a resolution at its September 22 Board meeting clarifying material terms for incentivizing solar projects in Erie County.

The policy follows the New York State Energy and Research development Authority’s definition of solar projects and supports the State’s goal of achieving 70% renewable electricity production by 2030.

“Our policy committee has been examining ways to maximize the community benefit from solar projects, while encouraging local solar electricity development through incentives,” said ECIDA President and CEO John Cappellino. “The Policy Committee recommended these criteria and requirements to the Board, and the Board agreed.”

The ECIDA Off-Site Commercial Solar Photovoltaic Policy specifies specific criteria for solar developers to qualify for limited incentives, including future property tax reductions for limited terms (PILOT), limited sales tax exemption on eligible project costs, and a reduction in the mortgage recording tax collected by Erie County when a mortgage is filed.

Requirements for incentive qualification include providing evidence of an agreement of approval with the Host Community, site improvement requirements, mitigating any loss of farmable agricultural acres, and proof of the proposed project’s compliance with the New York State Environmental Quality Review Act.

“The challenge was to balance incentivizing solar projects with a community benefit beyond a number of jobs created,” said Cappellino. “By nature, solar projects do not create large numbers of jobs, but the benefit of renewable energy can be measured in other ways, such as megawatts and taxes paid on the completed project. The Policy Committee also placed important consideration on protecting agricultural land, and included provisions in the policy to ensure the preservation of farmable acres.”

To see the full policy resolution, please click here: [ECIDA Solar Policy](#)

The Erie County Industrial Development Agency is a public benefit corporation

sanctioned by the State of New York to offer tax incentives to qualified businesses, and is dedicated to furthering economic development, adaptive reuse of qualified properties, job creation and ensuring a thriving business environment in Erie County. The staff of the ECIDA are not employees of

the City of Buffalo, the County of Erie, or the State of New York. The ECIDA does not receive operating funds from taxpayer revenues. The ECIDA receives its operating funds by collecting fees from businesses that enter into contracts with the Agency, from investments, and from loan fees.

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